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PRESS RELEASE

US Provides Assistance for Automated CEMT License System

The Ministry of Transport and Communications announces a new licensing procedure for Macedonian transport companies.

As of today, international road hauler traffic licenses (CEMT licenses) will be awarded to Macedonian transport companies using an automated, computerized system that replaces a manual "paper based" system. The new system makes it easy to track applications and paves the way for online licensing, expected to be available by next year.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s e-Gov Project and the Ministry of Transport and Communications are working together to make licensing fair, transparent and efficient. USAID is part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia.

"I'm sure the business community welcomes the benefits modern technology offers," said Peter Lampesis, USAID Economic Growth officer. "This new system is an example of the government's efforts to fight corruption by promoting transparency in public administration functions."

A CEMT license is required for the international transport of goods. CEMT licenses are required for all international road hauler traffic. Macedonia is allowed to issue a limited number of licenses each year.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

USAID's e-Gov project assists the Government of Macedonia and its institutions to increase efficiency and transparency by using information and communication technology, thereby helping make Macedonia more attractive to potential investors. For more information, please visit www.e-gov.org.mk or e-mail Vanja Mirkovski, e-Gov Press Officer, at vanja.mirkovski@internews.org